(b) if so, whether his Ministry has undertaken any schemes/progress in this direction during the last three years till September 30, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Government is fully aware of the need to conserve herbs/roots, flowers of medicinal importance in Jammu and Kashmir State. Some Central Ministries/ Departments/Institutes are supporting various research programmes for conservation of herbs/roots, flowers of medicinal importance in Jammu and Kashmir State. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research through one of its institutes *i.e.* Regional Research Laboratory (RRL) in Jammu which has a branch in Srinagar (J&K), is involved in the conservation of some important and endangered species of medicinal plants/parts. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established a gene bank for conservation of medicinal plants of Western Himalayan Region including that of Jammu and Kashmir at Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu. Field gene banks have been established at Jammu (Sub-tropical), Bonera (temperate) and Leh (cold-arid) regions for conservation of the genetic resources of medicinal plants of Western Himalayas. A seed bank and *in vitro* bank has also been developed. One more DBT-sponsored project on conservation and multiplication of endangered medicinal plant diversity of Kashmir Himalayas has been recently completed at Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Shalimar-Srinagar. Another DBT-sponsored project is being implemented by Kashmir University, Srinagar on collection and conservation of important medicinal plants of Jammu and Kashmir region. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also supported a total number of twenty projects during the last three years till September 04, 2004 under promotional and commercial schemes for overall development of this sector in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Agenda for scientists

1550. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set a 12 point agenda for the scientific

community to help achieve the goal of India becoming an advanced country by 2020;

(b) if so, the details of the 12 point agenda envisaged for scientific community;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared in this regard;

(d) if yes, the details of the action plan; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) During the Indian Science Congress held on 5th January, 2004 at Chandigarh, it has been suggested that the scientific community should take up the following 12 goal oriented challenges:

1. The Agricultural research has to be directed towards doubling the yield of grains per heactare; this will ensure food security for the growing population inspite of continued reduction in the availability of water and cultivable land.
2. Interlinking of rivers is a necessity for the nation and is the largest programme of the country. It needs advanced R & D inputs from all disciplines of science and technology.
3. The technology of desalination using solar power has to be developed very urgently to meet the energy and drinking water demands.
4. Nuclear scientists have to ensure between now and 2020, twenty thousand mega watt power and more gets added to the power grid. Also the technology of exploiting abdundantly available thorium has to come in a mission mode.
5. The development of vaccine for HIV has to be completed and put to use within two years.
6. Integrated research for Stem Cell utilization for many diseases has to be carried out in a mission mode.
7. Space scientist should aggressively market the already proven launch systems and satellites. The aerospace community should make the hypersonic reusable launch vehicle a reality within a decade.

8. Defence ministry in collaboration with scientists, technologists and also industries should lead the export of missiles, tanks, aircraft, electronic warfare systems, sonars, radars, armaments and other military equipments to friendly countries.

9. Information Communication Technology (ICT) community should develop indigenous Indian language independent infrastructural software and value added products.

10. Scientific community should become knowledge partners for Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) in realizing cost effective connectivities, energy and water and conserving habitats through entrepreneurship, leading to rural prosperity.

11. Science and Technologoy should take its discoveries and developments to the betterment of the life of differently challenged people.

12. Scientific community should be ever alert to spot Ramanujan and nurture them even in the budding stage like what Prof. G.H. Hardy did.

(c) to (e) The suggestions made during the Indian Science Congress are recommendatory in nature and are passed on to concerned departments for taking appropriate action. No National Action Plan is prepared on the basis of these suggestions.

Production of medicinal flowers

1551. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any plan for the production of suitable flowers in Uttaranchal to use them for medicinal and scent purposes;

(b) if so, the details of centers established for this purpose alongwith the details of their capacity;

(c) whether Government propose to expand the existing centers and establish new centers there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?